Sultan Salauddin Ayyubi
Conqueror of Bait-al-Moqaddas

& Ajdikan Dvin Gugark Armenia: His Native Hometown

Compilation by Abdur Rashid Bijar Gujjar (Author of The Gujjar Origin)

When studying the ethnic and geographical roots of Sultan al-Malik al-Nasir Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi, the monumental historical figure who altered the course of world history, startling facts emerge that stand in contrast to mainstream historical narratives. These links trace directly back to the Caucasus region, Georgia, and ancient Gujjar history. The most authentic evidence supporting this historical reality is found in the writings of the Sultan's immediate contemporary and close confidant, **Qazi al-Askar Baha al-Din ibn Shaddad**, alongside testimonies from classical Muslim historians and the latest breakthrough genetic reports.

1. The Testimony of Ibn Shaddad and the Reality of "al-Dvini"

In his world-renowned work, **al-Nawadir al-Sultaniyya wa'l-Mahasin al-Yusufiyya** (Edited by Jamal al-Din al-Shayyal, p. 17), Baha al-Din ibn Shaddad records the lineage of the Sultan as follows:

> هَذَا ذِكْرُ نَسَبِ السُّلطَانِ المَلِكِ النَّاصِرِ صَلَاحِ الدِّينِ أَبِي المُظَفَّرِ يُوسُفَ بنِ أَيُّوبَ بنِ شَادِي بنِ مَرْوَانَ بنِ يَعْقُوبَ الدُّوَيْنِيّ رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ

"یہ سلطان الملک الناصر صلاح الدین ابو المظفر یوسف بن ایوب بن شادی بن مروان بن یعقوب **الدوینی** رحمہ اللہ کا نسب بیان ہے۔"

> ***English:*** *"This is the lineage of Sultan al-Malik al-Nasir Salah al-Din Abu al-Muzaffar Yusuf ibn Ayyub ibn Shadi ibn Marwan ibn Yaqub **al-Davini**, may Allah have mercy on him."*

Ibn Shaddad, who remained by the Sultan's side in his court and throughout all matters of war and peace, did **not** label the Sultan as "Kurd" or "Arab" in this foundational document; instead, he explicitly designated him as **"al-Dvini."**

The ancient city of Dvin was a highly prominent medieval urban centre located at the crossroads of the borders of **Gujarani Gurjistan** and **Gugark province of Armenia**. This geographical point marks the true cradle of this family's history.

Najm al-Din Ayyub ibn Shadi, the father of Sultan Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi, was born in the historical Ajdikan of Dvin city. Following the deposition of the Shaddadid rulers there in **1130 CE**, the family migrated toward Kurdistan (the region of modern Iraq and Syria), where Sultan Salah al-Din was subsequently born.

2. Georgia, the Khazars, and the Gujjars of India: Linguistic and Historical Evidence

According to the principles of linguistics and historical geography, the intricate web of regional names in this specific pocket of the Caucasus is not a matter of mere coincidence, but rather denotes a vast ethnic and cultural migration.

In his celebrated work, **Tarikh Gujjar Goonj (p. 36)**, the renowned researcher **Chaudhry Akbar Khan Gujjar** sheds detailed light on the interconnecting links between Georgia, the Khazar Alliance, and the Gujjars of India, writing that:

> *"The ancient name of Georgia was **Karthami (کرتھامی)**. The Iranians called it **Gurjistan**, while the Arabs referred to it as **Jurjistan**. The Armenians designated it as **Dardistan**, and the Romans called it **Gruziya**."*

a) The Khazar and Gujjar Alliance

The vast majority of Georgia's population historically belonged to the **Khazar stock**. The two Georgian tribal factions, namely **"Gurj"** and **"Kurj,"** are, in reality, two sub-branches of the **"Gurji" sect** of the Khazars.

b) Confirmation by Arab Historians

According to classical Arab historians, the Georgians are definitively identified as Khazars, and the Arabs maintained deep-rooted ties with them. The Arabs referred to them as **"Gurj"** or **"Jurz."** This is precisely the same terminology (i.e., Khazar or Juzr/Jurz). This serves as explicit proof that Georgia (Gurjistan) and the Khazars (Gujjars) of India share the same root and are linked by a unified migratory trajectory.

c) Geographical Continuity

The survival of names such as **Gugark** (a province in Armenia), **Dvin**, and **Gujrane** within this very region demonstrates that this entire territory lies along a singular historical "route." It confirms that the inhabitants of these locales were part of the same Caucasian milieu and ethnic alliance bound to the "Gurj" or "Gujjar" identity.

3. The 2025 Genetic Research Report: Scientific Authentication

This historical and linguistic thesis has received monumental validation from recent advancements in genetic science. A study published in **The American Journal of Human Genetics**, conducted by the Institute of Molecular Biology (National Academy of Sciences of Armenia) utilizing comprehensive data from the **FamilyTreeDNA Armenian DNA Project**, reveals a fascinating dual paternal genetic inheritance across these historical Armenian landscapes.

The Central Ararat Valley and the Ancient City of Dvin

The research indicates that **Haplogroup R1b**, specifically its sub-clade **R-Z2103**, holds a prominent majority in this zone,

constituting approximately **30% of the paternal Y-DNA pool**. This continuity establishes a direct genetic link with the ancient **Kura-Araxes civilization** and the **Kingdom of Urartu**.

The Northern Region of Gugark (Lori)

Conversely, in Gugark, the northern province of Armenia, a striking and dominant presence of **Haplogroup R1a** was observed, particularly its sub-branches **R-Z93** and **R-M417**. These specific markers connect the historical tribes of this region to the ancient migrations out of the **Eurasian Steppe**, providing a robust genetic bridge to the populations of Central Asia and the South Asian subcontinent.

In light of this genetic report, the geographical and regional tribal affiliation of Najm al-Din Ayyub and his ancestors is closely tied to these ancient paternal Y-DNA R (R1a and R1b) markers found across the Armenian Highlands and the broader Near East, aligning seamlessly with the migratory pathways of the Gujjar Alliance.

4. King Pharnavaz and the Historical Background of Georgia

Any study of this region's political history remains incomplete without mentioning **King Pharnavaz I (336 BC)**. King Pharnavaz was the great iconoclastic ruler who overthrew the governance of **Azo**, the ruler appointed by Alexander of Macedon. He established a sovereign and powerful kingdom in **Gurjistan/Georgia** and completely shattered the idols installed within Azo's temples.

From the reign of Pharnavaz down to the era of the early Muslim conquests, this entire landscape was renowned for its warrior spirit, honor, and valor.

In **Tarikh Gujjar Goonj**, Choudhary Akbar Khan quotes Arab and Persian geographers' references stating that the ancient name of Georgia was Gurjistan. Due to this name and its connection to the Khazar tribe, various places along the border routes of Iran and Afghanistan were named **Khazaran, Khazar Abad**, and **Darband-e-Khazar**. These names serve as memorials to the migration of the Khazar (Gujjar) tribes who migrated from Central Asia and the Caucasus into the land of India.

Chinese writers used the name **"Khoza Turk"** for the Khazar nation, and titles like **Khaqan, Khagan**, and **Khan** were prevalent among their rulers.

The historical book of Kashmir, the **Rajatarangini**, also mentions the rulers of this region (among whose lineage was **"Lahkhana"**). Their ethnic lineage traced back to those same Hun tribes coming from the northwestern borders, whose influence had extended as far as Georgia.

Choudhary Akbar Khan also states that the Georgians were fundamentally recognized as highly intelligent, brave, and physically robust.

The emergence of Sultan Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi's ancestors from this very cradle (**Dvin**) and their subsequent rise to dominance across the geopolitical landscape of Islamic history is a continuation of that same martial legacy. It was a characteristic inherent to the land of rulers like Pharnavaz and deeply embedded within the genetic and historical environment of **Gugark and Dvin**.

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Conclusion

Mainstream historical texts have frequently overlooked the geographical roots of various tribes, confining them to superficial, localized labels.

However, the authentic contemporary documentation provided by **Baha al-Din ibn Shaddad** ("*al-Dvini*"), the linguistic evidence preserved in **Chaudhry Akbar Khan Gujjar's Tarikh Gujjar Goonj** (detailing the terms Karthami, the Khazar Alliance, and the use of Jurz for the Gujjars), and above all, the breakthrough genetic data showing the continuity of **Haplogroups R1a and R1b**, collectively clarify one reality:

> *Sultan Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi's ancestral lineage is rooted in this grand historical and scientific* ***"Gujjar Route,"*** *which produced both the iconoclastic King Pharnavaz and the great conqueror Salah al-Din himself.*

This verified research position is precisely mirrored and corroborated by the eminent scholar **Mufti Abdul Ghani al-Azhari al-Shashi**, who earned his PhD in Psychology, Hadith, and History from the prestigious **Al-Azhar University** in Egypt. This comprehensive research not only uncovers the hidden dimensions of the Ayyubid lineage on scientific and documentary grounds, but also presents the global migrations and ruling legacy of the Gujjar lineage as an undeniable historical reality to the world.

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